Scarcity of lab technicians

878. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(b) whether it is a fact that lab technical staffs in the primary health centres especially in rural areas are very less and even such staff are not posted; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government to provide adequate technical and non-technical staffs in primary health centres in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As on March, 2007, out of a total 22370 Primary Health Centres [PHCs], there are 7352 Primary Health Centres functioning without lab technician in the country. Under National Rural Health Mission [NRHM], funds are provided to State/UTs Governments for upgradation/strengthening of Primary Health Centres. The State/UT Governments are, however, required to incorporate their requirement in their annual Programme Implementation Plan of NRHM.

Assistance to West Bengal on bird-flu

879. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the outbreak of deadly bird-flu disease in West Bengal and other States have affected human beings recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of assistance provided by the Central Government to West Bengal Government and other State Governments to face the threat of bird-flu disease; and

(d) the present status of bird flu in various parts of the country and the steps taken by Government to ensure complete eradication of bird flu disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There has been no human case of Avian Influenza.

(c) and (d) During the recent outbreak of Avian Influenza in poultry in West Bengal, the Central Government initiated a series of actions to assist the state in the containment operations and restrict further spread of the disease. The contingency plan has been implemented in affected districts of West Bengal. The state of preparedness of the states of Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa and Assam that share a common border with West Bengal were reviewed. Other States have also been put on alert. Information, Education and Communication campaign to sensitize the community was launched in the visual and print media. Adequate stock of Oseltamivir (the drug required for prevention and treatment), and personal protective equipments were made available to West Bengal and other States.

Assistance to Govt. of West Bengal included deputing central Rapid Response Teams to all the affected districts, supply of 4,20,000 capsules of Oseltamivir, 6500 personal protective equipments, 6500 N-95 masks, 150 bottles of Tamiflu syrup, 20 ventilators for critical care support. Financial assistance of Rs. 94.38 lakhs has also been granted to Government of West Bengal to carry out human surveillance using the World Health Organization Polio surveillance model.

Compulsory HIV testing before marriage

880. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to make HIV testing Compulsory before marriage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where HIV positive cases are spreading at a faster pace; and

(d) what steps Government proposes to take to curtail the incidents of HIV positive cases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government does not propose to make HIV testing compulsory before marriage. As the National Testing Policy reiterates that there can be no compulsory HIV testing. Moreover, test has to be carried out maintaining the client confidentiality and should be voluntary. In case of marriage, if one of the partners insists on HIV testing of the other partner; such tests should be carried out by the contracting party to the satisfaction of the person concerned.

(c) States of Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Union territory of Pondicherry have shown an increase in HIV prevalence amongst the adult population according to the surveillance carried out from 2002-2006.

(d) Under the National AIDS Control Programme (2007-2012), up scaling of targeted interventions among the high risk group, behaviour change communication for improved awareness, expanding, counseling and testing services, blood safety, support and treatment of HIV infected persons including the treatment of opportunistic infections, provision of anti-retroviral drugs and mainstreaming of HIV intervention strategies are being implemented for the prevention of new infections.

Quacks in the Capital

881. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that more than 40,000 quacks settled in Delhi, have been selling counterfeit and substandard drugs fearlessly for the last several years, as per Delhi Medical Council report;

(b) if so, whether Government had carried out any survey to ascertain the existence of quacks in the Capital and if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them; and